

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 FEAE-00
DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 /099 W
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R 281450Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 766
INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2366

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, IAEA, BR
SUBJ: BRAZILIAN OFFICIAL REQUESTS US VIEWS ON THE WORK OF THE
IAEA'S PNE ADVISORY GROUP

1. SUMMARY. A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS REQUESTED INFORMALLY US VIEWS ON THE WORK OF THE IAEA'S PNE ADVISORY GROUP. HE IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE QUESTIONS OF THE TREATY BASES FOR, AND FORM OF, INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FURNISHING PNE SERVICES. IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE OFFICIAL'S REQUEST PROBABLY REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO GET A FIX ON WHAT THE GOB APPARENTLY SEES AS EVOLVING US THINKING ON PNE'S. ACTION REQUESTED: COMMENTS WE CAN PASS ON TO THE OFFICIAL, IF POSSIBLE BY MARCH 31. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MARCH 21 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, COUNSELOR JOSE OLYMPIO RACHE DE ALMEIDA, CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIVISION OF SPECIALIZED UN AGENCIES, RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE IAEA'S PNE ADVISORY GROUP. RACHE STRESSED THAT HIS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
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WERE PERSONAL AND STRICTLY INFORMAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE BRAZIL, AS A NON-ADHERENT TO THE NPT, HAD ONLY OBSERVER STATUS AT ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, BRAZIL'S "GREAT INTEREST IN THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PNE SERVICES," A SUBJECT WHICH THE GOB FOUND "VERY INTRIGUING."

3. RACHE HAD TWO PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS: (A) WHAT WERE US VIEWS TOWARD THE USSR'S APPARENT STRONG DESIRE TO "ENHANCE THE STATUS" OF TWO BILATERAL TREATIES, THE US-SOVIET TTBT AND PNE TREATIES, BY INCLUDING THEM AMONG THE "TREATY BASES" OF INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS GOVERNING THE PROVISION OF PNE SERVICES? RACHE EXPLAINED THAT AGREEMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE TREATY BASES WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DRAFTING OF A "SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT OR AGREEMENTS" (NPT, ART. 5), AND WOULD BE CITED IN THE PREAMBULAR PORTION OF ANY SPECIAL AGREEMENT. OF COURSE, THE NPT, PTBT, AND CERTAIN OTHER MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS WOULD SERVE AS TREATY BASES. RACHE SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US HAD BEEN WATCHING THIS SOVIET INITIATIVE BUT HAD NOT GIVEN IT SPECIFIC SUPPORT. HE WONDERED WHETHER, IF THE TWO US-SOVIET BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WERE TO ACQUIRE "ENHANCED STATUS," OTHER POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS OF PNE SERVICES MIGHT NOT TRY TO STRIKE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, WITH THE INTENT THAT THESE AGREEMENTS TOO WOULD GAIN "ENHANCED STATUS." RACHE SAID HE HAD DOUBTS ABOUT STARTING OUT DOWN THE ROAD OF GIVING "ENHANCED STATUS" TO BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. HE NOTED FURTHERMORE THAT THE TWO US-SOVIET AGREEMENTS IN QUESTION HAD NOT YET EVEN BEEN RATIFIED.

(B) WHAT WERE US VIEWS TOWARD THE FORM OF A "SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT OR AGREEMENTS" (NPT, ART.5) GOVERNING THE PROVISION OF PNE SERVICES, WHETHER AN "AGREEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES" NON-BINDING IN SPECIFICS OR A MORE, DETAILED "NPT-LIKE

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UMBRELLA AGREEMENT"? RACHE SAID HE SHARED THE APPREHENSIONS OF MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ABOUT AN "EXCESSIVELY RESTRICTIVE APPROACH," I.E., THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT. PNE'S WERE SUCH A NEW AREA THAT A "TRIAL AND ERROR" PROCESS WAS NEEDED - WHICH SUGGESTED THE WISDOM OF THE NON-BINDING AGREEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES. RACHE SAID HE REALIZED THE US AND OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS HAD FAVORED THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT APPROACH. HE WONDERED, HOWEVER, WHETHER THERE WAS FLEXIBILITY IN THE US POSITION. HE SAID HIS PERSONAL OPINION WAS THAT THE NUCLEAR POWERS WOULD BE WILLING TO SETTLE FOR AN AGREEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES. ALSO, RACHE WONDERED HOW STRONG WAS US SUPPORT NOW FOR EITHER APPROACH.

4. EVEN THOUGH ONLY EGYPT THUS FAR HAS APPLIED FOR PNE SERVICES, RACHE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT NUCLEAR POWERS, INCLUDING SMALLER POWERS SUCH AS THE UK AND FRANCE, WERE STRONGLY MOTIVATED IN ADVISORY GROUP WORD BY THE POTENTIAL FOR HIGH PROFITS IN FURNISHING PNE SERVICES

AND RELATED CONSULTANCY.

5. BRAZIL, RACHE SAID, HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHAT POSITION TO TAKE ON THE QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PNE SERVICES. HE SAW BRAZIL AND MOST OTHER NNWS AS BEING IN A COMFORTABLE POSITION SINCE THEY DID NOT NEED PNE SERVICES IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

6. RACHE SAID NO ONE FROM BRASILIA WOULD ATTEND THE APRIL MEETING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP. AN OFFICIAL FROM BRAZIL'S MISSION TO THE IAEA WOULD ATTEND.

7. COMMENT. RACHE'S "INFORMAL" REQUEST FOR US VIEWS PROBABLY REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO GET A FIX ON WHAT THE GOB APPARENTLY SEES AS EVOLVING US THINKING ON PNE'S. EVEN THOUGH BRAZIL IS ONLY AN OBSERVER IN THE ADVISORY GROUP, IT MIGHT WELL PERCEIVE THAT IT NEEDS
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TO WATCH THE PROCEEDINGS CLOSELY, AND PERHAPS REPRESENT ITS VIEWS THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS. BRAZIL'S PERSPECTIVE MAY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ITS NON-NPT STATUS, A POSSIBLE MEDIUM-TERM DEMAND FOR PNE SERVICES, AND A CONCEIVABLE LONG-TERM CAPABILITY TO SUPPLY PNE SERVICES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED - (A) ANY COMMENTS WE CAN PASS ON TO RACHE. RACHE WOULD EXPECIALLY APPRECIATE ANY VIEWS BY MARCH 31.

(B) FOR THE EMBASSY'S BACKGROUND, PLEASE POUCH COPIES OF USEFUL USG AND IAEA DOCUMENTS ON THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY GROUP.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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